



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

For Your Information...

WasteWise

What is WasteWise?

WasteWise is a free, voluntary U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) program in which organizations eliminate costly solid waste, benefitting their bottom line and the environment. WasteWise is a flexible program that allows partners to design their own solid waste reduction programs tailored to their needs.

How to Be WasteWise

To be WasteWise, partners sign on to the program for a three-year period and undertake the following activities:

- **Commit to reducing waste.** WasteWise partners examine their operating and purchasing practices to identify cost-effective opportunities for waste reduction.
- **Establish waste reduction goals.** WasteWise partners identify practical and measurable goals based on their specific needs. Within six months of joining, partners set three-year goals in each of the complementary program areas: waste prevention; recycling collection; and buying or manufacturing products with recycled content.
- **Track progress.** Partners monitor their progress and annually update U.S. EPA on their accomplishments. WasteWise partners find this process to be valuable and often use this information to communicate results to employees, managers and stockholders.

Who can join WasteWise?

Any organization can join. Large and small businesses from any industry sector are welcome to participate. Institutions, such as hospitals and

universities, non-profits, and other organizations, as well as state, local and tribal governments also are eligible to participate in the program.

Why should an organization join WasteWise?

Waste reduction makes good business sense because it can save your organization money through reduced purchasing and waste disposal costs. WasteWise provides free technical assistance to help you develop, implement and measure your waste reduction activities.

WasteWise offers publicity to organizations that are successful in reducing waste through U.S. EPA publications, case studies and national and regional events. These events also provide networking opportunities for organizations to share waste reduction ideas and success stories.



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste

How do you join WasteWise?

Complete the registration form, which can be filled out on-line or downloaded from the WasteWise Web site www.epa.gov/wastewise. A registration form also can be obtained by calling the WasteWise toll-free number, **1-800-EPA-WISE**.

How do you start a program?

There are four basic steps to getting a program started.

- First, obtain **management support** and involvement.
- Second, it is suggested that you establish a **waste reduction team** and select a leader.

- Third, **set goals** for your organization, which may involve conducting a **waste assessment**. The waste assessment looks at the waste currently generated. It provides a baseline for future data and can help identify potential waste reduction options. It is suggested that a **measurement/tracking system** be put into place so that

progress toward your waste reduction goals can be easily tracked .

- Fourth, it is suggested that your **entire organization become involved** in implementing your goals by making an organization-wide announcement.

DHEC is a WasteWise partner, endorser.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control recently became WasteWise.

That is, DHEC became a partner and endorser of the U.S. EPA's WasteWise program.

WasteWise is a free, voluntary partnership program that helps organizations prevent waste, recycle and buy recycled or manufacture recycled products, thus benefiting their bottom line and the environment. The program is flexible and allows partners to design their own plans tailored to their needs. Established in 1994, WasteWise now has more than 1,000 partners, including local, state and tribal governments, non-profit organizations, hospitals, universities and multi-national corporations.

WasteWise partners set waste prevention, recycling and buying recycled goals. DHEC's goals are listed on the right.

DHEC is not only participating in the WasteWise program as a partner, but also as an endorser. To help spread the WasteWise message to more organizations, the U.S. EPA launched the WasteWise Endorser Program. Endorsers help encourage other businesses to join the WasteWise

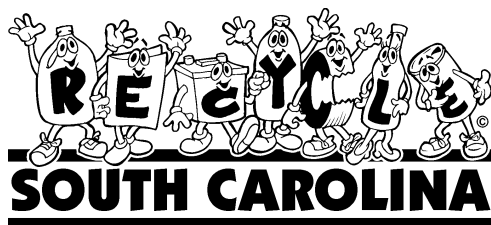
program and help their members realize that reducing solid waste makes good business sense. Thus, endorsers demonstrate their leadership in the environmental arena, help their members to achieve substantial cost savings, and play a pivotal role in conserving our natural resources and preventing pollution.

As an endorser, DHEC will recruit other organizations to become WasteWise members and provide members and potential members with promotional and technical information.

Any organization or business in South Carolina can join the WasteWise program including: schools, manufacturers, government, commercial and retail businesses.

DID YOU KNOW? Greenville County, the City of Greenville, Beers York Construction Company and Shaw Air Force Base recently became a WasteWise partners in South Carolina.

DID YOU KNOW? As a WasteWise partner, the U.S. Postal Service Northeast Area saved \$2.3 million by recycling nearly 41,500 tons of paper, 106 tons of plastic, nearly 1,000 tons of metal and 1,650 tons of wood in 1998.



Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
1-800-768-7348
www.scdhec.net/recycle

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling FYIs provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at www.scdhec.net/recycle. Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.